

**TITLE 785. OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD  
CHAPTER 35. WELL DRILLER AND PUMP INSTALLER LICENSING**

**RULEMAKING ACTION:**

Notice of proposed PERMANENT rulemaking

**PROPOSED RULES:**

Subchapter 3. Licensing and Certifications

785:35.1.2. Military service occupation, education and credentialing [NEW]

Subchapter 11. Plugging and Capping Requirements for Wells and Test Holes

785:25-11-1. Plugging and capping requirements for groundwater wells, fresh water observation wells, heat exchange wells and water well test holes [AMENDED]

**SUMMARY:**

Staff proposes that the Oklahoma Water Resources Board ("Board") amend 785:35-3-1.2 to fulfill requirements of Senate Bill 670 that directs agencies granting occupational licenses to promulgate rules allowing military personnel and their spouses to receive expedited, reciprocal occupational licenses.

A recommendation is also proposed to amend 785:35-11-1(c)(5) to provide an alternate, more efficient method for plugging and abandoning of contaminated groundwater wells and test holes. The current rules require that the upper twenty feet of well casing be completely removed. Stakeholders have submitted that, if the well meets current standards for grouting and annular seal, complete removal of the upper twenty feet of casing is unnecessary. Additionally, the presence of grout and annular seals increase the difficulty and cost of plugging and abandoning a well. In many cases, such as if the casing material is steel, removal or over-drilling of the casing material is not possible and results in a situation where a plugging variance from the Board is required. The processing of a variance adds additional cost and administrative overhead to plugging and abandoning a well and stands at odds with the Board's emphasis on plugging unused and abandoned wells.

**AUTHORITY:**

Oklahoma Water Resources Board; 82 O.S. § 1085.2; 82 O.S. § 1020.16.

**COMMENT PERIOD:**

Persons wishing to present data, views, or arguments orally or in writing may do so to Chrystal Krittenbrink at 3800 North Classen, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118, or by email to [chrystal.krittenbrink@owrb.ok.gov](mailto:chrystal.krittenbrink@owrb.ok.gov). Comments must be received by the OWRB no later than the close of the public hearing on January 21, 2020.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

A public hearing will be held January 21, 2020 during the monthly meeting of the Board which will begin at 9:30 A.M. in the Board Room of the OWRB's offices located at 3800 North Classen, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73118.

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM BUSINESS ENTITIES:**

The OWRB requests that any business entities affected by these proposed rules provide the Board, in dollar amounts if possible, the increase in the level of direct costs such as fees, and indirect costs such as reporting, recordkeeping, equipment, construction, labor, professional services, revenue loss, or other costs expected to be incurred by a particular entity due to compliance with the proposed rules. Business entities may submit this information in writing to Chrystal Krittenbrink at 3800 North Classen, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma before the close of the comment period.

**COPIES OF PROPOSED RULES:**

Copies of the proposed amendments may be reviewed at the Board's office location at 3800 North Classen, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118, or may be obtained from the "Contact Person" identified below upon prepayment of the copying charge. The proposed rules may also be viewed on the Board web site at <http://www.owrb.ok.gov>.

**RULE IMPACT STATEMENT:**

Pursuant to 75 O.S., § 303(D), a Rule Impact Statement is available for review at the OWRB's office, 3800 North Classen, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Rule Impact Statement may also be viewed on the OWRB web site at <http://www.owrb.ok.gov>.

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Chrystal Krittenbrink, Legal Secretary, 405-530-8800  
or [chrystal.krittenbrink@owrb.ok.gov](mailto:chrystal.krittenbrink@owrb.ok.gov).